

Gus Olmos

Subject: FW: EPD Review for BOCC

From: Mantini, Louis [mailto:mantini_l@srwmd.state.fl.us]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:24 AM

To: 'Bret Whiteley'

Subject: RE: EPD Review for BOCC

Dear Mr. Whitley:

Per your request, I'll offer the following response:

- Is EPD effective and efficient? **Yes, particularly in regards to scheduling inter-agency meetings and resolving public concerns.**
- Do any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies? **I have worked with the Department in the capacity of addressing wetland issues. Our agencies do experience an overlap but not a duplication; as the Department's regulations may be more/less stringent, and the District does not supersede local governments.**
- Does EPD act appropriately in carrying out Commission policies in the enforcement of environmental and land development regulations and in other areas? **Yes. I have never witnessed the Department's personnel treating anyone disrespectfully.**
- Should EPD's roles be changing given diminished budgets in other agencies (e.g. water management districts)? **I think the Department's role will be more important, not only due to diminishing district(s) budgets, but also due to the diminishing district's regulatory jurisdiction.**
- What should EPD's future priorities be? **Water quality protection and water conservation.**

Sincerely,

Louis

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From: Bret Whiteley [<mailto:bret@westconsultant.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:43 PM

To: Mantini, Louis

Subject: EPD Review for BOCC

Mr. Mantini,

It was recommended that I contact you for input on the message below. Please would you provide some input on the topics listed. If there is somebody better suited at the SRWMD to address the questions, feel free to delegate the responsibility.

The Alachua County Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) is currently conducting an oversight review of the County's Environmental Protection Department (EPD), with a particular focus on these questions:

- Is EPD effective and efficient?
- Do any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies?
- Does EPD act appropriately in carrying out Commission policies in the enforcement of environmental and land development regulations and in other areas?
- Should EPD's roles be changing given diminished budgets in other agencies (e.g. water management districts)?
- What should EPD's future priorities be?

A review of EPD was conducted by the Commission about 10 years ago. Given the policy and budgetary changes that have taken place since then, a new review would seem to be timely. We plan to finish our review within the next six months.

Yours sincerely,

Bret Whiteley

President

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